



# 2010 Year in Review

CHESAPEAKE BAY OFFICE

## *T*HE CHESAPEAKE'S TREASURED LANDSCAPES

*The National Park Service helps connect people to the natural and cultural heritage of the Chesapeake region through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.*

## Letter from the Superintendent

At the launch of America's Great Outdoors Initiative in 2010, President Obama said, "... few pursuits are more satisfying to the spirit than discovering the greatness of America's outdoors." These words echo the work we do in collaboration with Chesapeake watershed partners as we develop the Captain John Smith Chesapeake and the Star-Spangled Banner national historic trails, build and strengthen the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and protect and restore the watershed through the Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative.

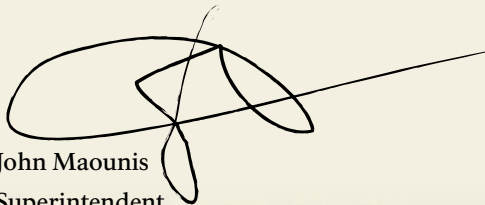
Nearly 500 people came to Annapolis for the America's Great Outdoors listening session in late June 2010. Chesapeake region conservation groups, individuals, land trusts, and local government agencies contributed their ideas for conservation and recreation in our backyards and communities. Just one month earlier, the federal *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed*, developed in response to Executive Order 13508, was released. We worked in partnership with states and NGOs to implement the actions and commitments outlined in the strategy's Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative: initiating a collaborative land protection priority system, convening youth corps groups, and beginning development of a watershed wide public access strategy.

These initiatives bolster and reinforce the work we pursue with our partners, stakeholders, and Chesapeake area residents. With the comprehensive management plan complete, collaborative efforts on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail accelerate as we identify meaningful landscapes, help partners create interpretive and educational programming, and develop new access to help more people enjoy and care to protect the Chesapeake Bay, rivers, and landscapes.

We added five partners to Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN) in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. We provided financial assistance to twelve Gateway partners for projects with a total value of almost \$1.6 million. Twenty-five projects funded in previous years came to fruition.

Working with our partners, we made great progress in 2010 on management planning and development of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Scenic Byway. We worked with the state of Maryland to complete a water trails plan funded through CBGN; we completed the interpretive plan and shared it with stakeholders for their use; and CBGN funding assisted partners with educational and interpretive programming. With the Chesapeake Conservancy, a geotrail was successfully launched in February to introduce new visitors to important stories of the Chesapeake during the War of 1812 at more than 35 partner sites across the watershed.

New approaches, federal initiatives, and collaborative projects with Chesapeake partners and stakeholders are building opportunities for citizens and visitors – opportunities to learn, to participate, and to satisfy the spirit.



John Maounis  
Superintendent

National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office



# Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative

President Obama issued Executive Order 13508 to “protect and restore the health, heritage, natural resources, and social and economic value” of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. Throughout 2010, we successfully managed high-level collaborative efforts and regularly led planning to create the federal *Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed* (released in May) and the first action plan (released in September) to carry out the intent of the executive order.

The federal strategy includes the major NPS component Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative (CTLI) and sets goals to protect some two million acres of additional priority conservation lands throughout the watershed and add 300 new public access sites to the Bay and tributaries by 2025. NPS actions to enhance stewardship include enlarging Chesapeake conservation corps workforces, strengthening environmental literacy initiatives, expanding master watershed stewards programs, and building long-term partnerships for engaging communities and citizens along national trails.

NPS staff hosted more than 50 state, federal, and nonprofit stakeholders in a working group session on implementing strategies on land conservation, public access, and stewardship activities, particularly youth engagement strategies through enhanced Chesapeake Conservation Corps workforces. We convened a meeting of representatives from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York plus key organizations, such as the American Canoe Association and Earth Conservation Corps, to discuss a regional public access plan. By the end of 2010 we were collecting public access data from partners and developing a GIS-based composite inventory system for the entire region. We hosted federal, state, and non-governmental conservation corps partners to develop a strategy for expanding corps workforces throughout the watershed and we established a new Chesapeake Conservation Corps action team.

We provided guidance and assistance to the Chesapeake Bay Commission in developing their report *Conserving Chesapeake Landscapes: Protecting our Investments, Securing Future Progress*. The report outlines the status of current land protection policies and accomplishments and details a set of recommendations for achieving new Chesapeake land conservation goals.

By the end of 2010, NPS Chesapeake Bay Office was well positioned to deliver key components of the Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative in a timely manner in 2011.

## 2010 MILESTONES

Identified an action team made up of representatives from the states, federal agencies, and Bay NGOs to assist in developing a regional public access strategy as required by the federal strategy action plan.

In anticipation of the proposed call for NPS funding for public access projects, NPS staff worked with partner staff to identify over \$3.5 million in projects that could be readily implemented in the coming year.

Participated in a panel on the Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative along with representatives of NGOs, Pennsylvania, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Choose Clean Water Conference.

Participated in a four-day meeting at the National Conservation Training Center to revise and further develop the strategy for restoration and protection of the Chesapeake.

Prepared the first annual Chesapeake Bay Action Plan with federal agency partners, describing how federal funding proposed in the President's budget will be used to protect and restore the Chesapeake Bay in the upcoming fiscal year, including NPS actions to fulfill its commitments for the first year of strategy implementation.

Hosted more than 50 state, federal, and nonprofit stakeholders in a working group session on implementing the executive order strategies for the Chesapeake Bay for land conservation, public access, and the Chesapeake Conservation Corps workforces.

Began building a foundation for a strategy to expand youth engagement in the Bay watershed, including opportunities to advance NPS youth engagement priorities.

Initiated work along national trails to identify key landscapes for protection and conservation.

Photo Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Program

## 2010 YEAR IN REVIEW

National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office  
Annapolis, Maryland

# Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network



Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network (CBGN) is a growing system of 170 parks, refuges, museums, historic communities and 1,500 miles of water trails in the Bay

watershed. Each partner site contributes its own perspective on a Chesapeake component or theme so that, together, Network partners offer visitors the full range of Chesapeake experiences.

In 2010, we welcomed five new Gateway sites to the Network: Fort Boykin Historic Park, Historic Fort Huger, Kingman and Heritage Islands Park, Patuxent River Water Trail, and Chickahominy Water Trail. These additions provide recreational access points, conservation and stewardship activities, and water trail linkages among Gateways and with the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

We re-designed the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network's map and guide and distributed over 40,000 copies to help the visiting public access and experience this collection of meaningful Chesapeake experiences. NPS staff delivered interpretive expertise and other forms of technical assistance to Gateway partners. Gateway site managers attended workshops

on program evaluation, volunteer management, interpretive writing, and marketing and outreach programming.

In 2010, twelve Gateway partners received financial assistance awards totaling \$670,954 with a total value of nearly \$1.6 million. Awarded projects will create new access to national historic or recreation trails; enhance existing or build new launches for watercraft using environmentally sensitive materials; provide opportunities for citizen volunteers; include educational components; and, improve visitor experiences through interpretive information.

Significant programs and projects were completed in 2010 with partial funding from the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-Md.) participated in the debut of a new audio tour of Baltimore's Gwynn's Falls Trails. Delaware's Trap Pond State Park celebrated the opening of its new "green" visitor center and interpretive exhibits, and Pennsylvania's Susquehanna Gateway Heritage Area launched an interactive website to help visitors plan excursions on the Lower Section of the Susquehanna River Water Trail. In Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps engaged young people in work projects and environmental education at ten Virginia state parks.

## CBGN Projects Funded in 2010

### **Fell's Point Historic District (\$47,580)**

*Fell's Point and the War of 1812: Interpretive Planning for Signage, Exhibits, Educational Resources and Programming*

### **Fell's Point Historic District (\$34,000)**

*War of 1812 Traveling Exhibits*

### **Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (\$50,000)**

*Star-Spangled Banner Virtual Educational Resource Center*

### **Havre de Grace Maritime Museum, Concord Point Lighthouse, Susquehanna Museum at the Lockhouse, Havre de Grace Decoy Museum, Skipjack Martha Lewis (\$99,120)**

*Reconstructing Havre de Grace's Community History: The War of 1812*

### **Lower James River Water Trail (\$73,636)**

*Boardwalk Trail and Habitat Enhancements at Presquile National Wildlife Refuge*

### **Nanticoke River Water Trail (\$35,000)**

*Wright Creek Canoe/Kayak Access*

### **Onancock Historic District and Town Wharf (\$38,315)**

*Onancock Creek Water Trail Access*

### **Rappahannock River Water Trail (\$55,495)**

*Destination Rappahannock—Access, Education, and Stewardship*

### **Susquehanna River Water Trail—North Branch (\$29,991)**

*Water Trail Access and Signage Development*

### **Susquehanna River Water Trail—Lower Section (\$100,000)**

*Visitor Welcome, Interpretation and Water Trail Access Facilities*

### **Watermen's Museum (\$98,000)**

*York River Eco-Heritage Education and Stewardship Project*

### **York River State Park (\$9,817)**

*Boat Launch Improvements in Taskinas Creek*

## CBGN Projects Completed in 2010

### **Annapolis Maritime Museum (\$75,000)**

*"Oysters on the Half Shell" Interpretive Exhibit*

### **Annapolis Maritime Museum (\$18,600)**

*"From this Spot . . ." Interpretive Panels*

### **Belle Isle State Park, Caledon State Park, Chippokes Plantation State Park, First Landing State Park, Kiptopeke State Park, Leesylvania State Park, Mason Neck State Park, Shenandoah River State Park, Westmoreland State Park and York River State Park (\$150,000)**

*Chesapeake Bay Gateways Youth Corps*

### **Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (\$17,000)**

*Little Blackwater River Boardwalk and Observation Deck*

### **Bladensburg Waterfront Park (\$35,280)**

*The Battle of Bladensburg: A Sailor's Perspective*

### **Chemung and Headwater Water Trail (\$31,370)**

*Water Trail Access and Signage Enhancements*

### **Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (\$50,178)**

*"Chesapeake Futures" Programming and Exhibition*

### **Chesapeake Exploration Center (\$45,000)**

*Ferry Point Trail*

### **Elk Neck State Park (\$27,873)**

*Improving Trailheads with Orientation and Interpretive Signage*

### **Gwynns Falls Trail (\$21,894)**

*Baltimore's Greenway to the Chesapeake Bay*

### **Havre de Grace Maritime Museum (\$81,785)**

*"Beyond Jamestown: Life 400 Years Ago" Interpretive Exhibit*

### **Lower James River Water Trail (\$29,750)**

*Stewardship Planning and Educational Outreach*

### **Mariner's Museum (\$15,000)**

*"Give the Chesapeake a Chance" Distance Learning Program*

### **Mount Harmon Plantation (\$58,600)**

*Education and Discovery Center Development*

### **Nanticoke River Water Trail (\$44,000)**

*Water Trail Map & Guide and Signage Development*

### **Piney Point Lighthouse (\$43,500)**

*Canoe/Kayak Launch and Interpretive Enhancements*

### **Rappahannock River Water Trail (\$99,979)**

*Trail Management Plan and Citizen Stewardship Initiatives*

### **Sailwinds Visitor Center (\$30,000)**

*Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Interpretive Plan*

### **Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area (\$26,000)**

*Knocks Folly Interpretive Center*

### **Schooner Sultana (\$38,998)**

*John Smith Expeditions and John Smith's Shallop Educational Programming*

### **Star-Spangled Banner Trail (\$100,000)**

*Water Trail Interpretation, Access and Stewardship Plan*

### **Sturgis Memorial Gateway (\$8,000)**

*"Nature and Heritage of the Pocomoke River" Training Program*

### **Susquehanna River Water Trail Lower Section (\$10,000)**

*Susquehanna River Water Trail—Lower Section Interactive Website*

### **Trap Pond State Park (\$93,000)**

*Baldcypress Nature Center Development*

### **Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art (\$14,500)**

*Nature Trail and Living Classroom Infrastructure*

*Update as of this writing:* Nineteen CBGN partners filed applications for FY11 financial assistance for public access development. These projects would develop 18 new public access sites and plan or design nine more. With a total project value of \$3.5 million, these proposals from New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and D.C. requested \$1.6 million in NPS financial assistance. However, the recently enacted FY11 budget approved by Congress did not include funding for CBGN financial assistance. Consequently, in 2011, financial assistance awards will not be made.

In 2010, NPS, NOAA, and EPA staff launched Bay Backpack, an online resource providing educators with tools to engage students in hands-on learning about the Chesapeake Bay and local waterways. U.S. Congressman John Sarbanes of Maryland participated at the launch of Bay Backpack hosted by CBGN member Annapolis Maritime Museum.

#### **2010 YEAR IN REVIEW**

National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office  
Annapolis, Maryland





## Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail extends approximately 3,000 miles on the Bay and tributaries and is the nation's first water-based trail. It follows the routes of John Smith's exploratory voyages in 1607–1609 and offers trail visitors recreational and educational experiences on land portions as well as on the water. Primary interpretive themes center on 17th century American Indian societies and cultures and the natural and cultural resources of the Bay.

An important milestone was accomplished in 2010—the completion of the trail's management plan and environmental assessment. More than 150 organizations, governmental agencies, and individuals provided input on, and support for, the final draft. The plan considers and balances core priorities of natural and cultural resource protection with public recreation opportunities and access. Cultural landscapes, particularly those related to American Indian communities, are an important trail-related resource for interpretation and conservation. NPS Chesapeake Bay staff convened a focus group of American Indian tribal representatives and federal and state agencies to clarify attributes and applications of indigenous cultural landscapes to conservation priorities for the trail.

The trail's geographic scope and complexity present challenges that are unique in the National Park Service. In 2010, we worked with our partners to view the trail in significant river or Bay sections for a focused, segment by segment trail implementation plan moving forward. The first two segments targeted for planning with our partners are the James River and the head of the Bay.

Partners around the Bay have leveraged our financial and technical assistance to initiate Smith Trail projects and programs. Trail visitors can see these developments in Havre de Grace, Maryland, where exterior interpretive panels illuminate the life ways of area Susquehannock Indians and John Smith's visit in early August 1608; at Delaware's Nanticoke River soft launch with a water trail guide detailing river features; at Elk Neck State Park trailheads at the Head of the Bay; at Piney Point Lighthouse where a floating platform for paddle launching on the Potomac River was installed; and on educational river trips on the Sassafras with Sultana Projects and on Virginia's James River with the James River Association.

We are inspired to work with our partners, trail visitors, and stakeholders to fulfill the promise of the trail—to help citizens and visitors experience, envision, understand, and care to protect what Captain John Smith and the many inhabitants of the Chesapeake region saw 400 years ago.

### 2010 MILESTONES

Awarded the first Junior Ranger badges for completion of the Junior Ranger activity book.

Assisted in development of interpretive content for three new buoys as part of NOAA's Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoy System for a total of nine buoys to date.

Developed educational backpacks for distribution through Virginia's Williamsburg-James City County regional library system. Three variations of backpacks correspond to trail themes and contain a user guide, books, activities, and a CD.

Launched several projects, including: Delaware portion of the Nanticoke River Water Trail; "Beyond Jamestown: Life 400 Years Ago," a permanent interactive exhibit at the Havre de Grace Maritime Museum; the Chickahominy Water Trail; and an exhibit and interactive kiosk at the visitor center in Historic Jamestowne.

Awarded a contract for a study of sites and landscapes significant to American Indian tribal partners.

Identified high-priority trail segments and initiated segment planning on two per the framework in the management plan.

Established formal Memoranda of Understanding with 11 Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network sites to formally recognize the sites as trail partners.

Completed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for cooperative activities along the trail.

Developed designs for two standard interpretive and orientation panels for placement at trail partner sites.

Funded six projects for trail development through the Gateways Network financial assistance program with an award value of over \$310,000.

Delivered 70 trail logo signs to trail partner sites in Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware.

# Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail



The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, designated in May 2008, commemorates the Chesapeake Campaign of the War of 1812, culminating in the rebuff of the British in Baltimore and the writing of what became the National Anthem. The trail, totaling 290 miles from Tangier

Island at the south up to the head of the Bay, includes water routes on three major tributaries and one land route, the Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway. Development of the trail is closely aligned with development of the byway and is fast-tracked to coincide with bicentennial celebrations in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland beginning in 2012.

In 2010, after a series of stakeholder workshops, NPS staff developed the trail's interpretive plan outlining key themes and strategies for desired visitor experiences while Maryland's Office of Tourism Development, with financial assistance through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, developed the water trails plan. We coordinated work with the Bladensburg War of 1812 Task Force to provide seamless learning and recreational experiences. We began development of a signage and graphic standards plan, and the Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Offices have partnered with us to refine the trail resource inventory, currently numbering more than 600 resources. With partners in Virginia, D.C., and Maryland, we co-hosted a series of seven public and partner meetings to explore local recreation, interpretation, and tourism opportunities. NPS staff worked with partners to develop professional development sessions for area teachers. In cooperation with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Baltimore War of 1812 Education Committee, we developed an inventory of lesson plans related to "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Chesapeake campaign of the War of 1812.

Financial assistance awards through the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network are supporting projects to advance the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. Examples include an interpretive and education program focused on a sailor's life in Bladensburg during the War of 1812; a nationwide curriculum available online through Fort McHenry National Monument (as well as a virtual resource center); a collaborative exhibit illustrating community life in and around Havre de Grace at the head of the Bay; traveling exhibits providing local context to the War of 1812; and development of a visitor experience plan in the historic Fell's Point neighborhood of Baltimore.

With educational initiatives and teacher resources, recreational experiences and heritage-based touring, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail will re-connect citizens and visitors to an important part of America's history and heritage—the War of 1812.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ON THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**  
[www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp)



## 2010 MILESTONES

In partnership with Chesapeake Conservancy and the Maryland Geocaching Society, a Star-Spangled Interpretive Geotrail launched in 2010. Comprised of 37 trail sites, more than 6,000 visits were logged in the first seven months.

NPS program Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Baltimore County to develop a concept plan for the North Point Peninsula Heritage Greenway Trail, retracing the British invasion route during the Battle of North Point.

On National Trails Day, June 5, NPS worked with Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, City of Alexandria, and two bike clubs to offer a 10-mile family-friendly interpretive bike ride linking historic sites on both sides of the Potomac.

NPS staff co-hosted seven public workshops on trail development issues and impacts of heritage tourism.

In cooperation with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Baltimore War of 1812 Education Committee, NPS staff developed an inventory of 45 lesson plans and 15 additional resources.

The trail's interpretive plan was completed and made available to partners and stakeholders for their use.

NPS developed an agreement with Maryland Office of Tourism Development and Maryland State Highway Administration for wayside signage.

An agreement was finalized with Maryland Historical Trust for production of a Star-Spangled Trail travel guide in 2011.

NPS staff coordinated a plan for educational and recreational experiences with the Bladensburg War of 1812 Task Force.

NPS Chesapeake Bay Office staff worked with Fort McHenry NPS staff to host 1400 students for a Young Defenders program at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

## America's Great Outdoors Initiative

In April 2010, President Obama established the America's Great Outdoors Initiative to develop a conservation and recreation agenda to reconnect Americans with the great outdoors. In a series of nationwide public listening sessions, Annapolis was chosen as the second site to host governmental and public stakeholders.

The Annapolis event attracted approximately 450 participants, including 90 for a youth session. Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar moderated a panel discussion with representatives of Eastern Shore Land Conservancy, Earth Conservation Corps, Parks and People Foundation, and Piedmont Environmental Council. Facilitated by senior officials from the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Council on Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency, nine break-out sessions provided opportunities for all participants to describe local efforts to connect people to the outdoors. Comments and suggestions contributed by participants were collected at NPS Washington office for inclusion in the national report due out in early 2011.

## Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance

The NPS program Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance provides expertise to local communities in conservation projects and outdoor recreation opportunities at the local level. We are fortunate to have RTCA staffer Wink Hastings stationed here in the Chesapeake Bay Office. His major 2010 project, the North Point Peninsula Heritage Greenway Trail, will accomplish goals important to communities in the North Point Peninsula. The trail retraces the British invasion route during the War of 1812's Battle of North Point. When completed, this trail will meet local needs of walkability, healthy recreation, and community connections while supporting development goals of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail.



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### IMPORTANT WEBSITES

[www.nps.gov/cbpo](http://www.nps.gov/cbpo)  
[www.baygateways.net](http://www.baygateways.net)  
[www.nps.gov/cajo](http://www.nps.gov/cajo)  
[www.smithtrail.net](http://www.smithtrail.net)  
[www.nps.gov/stsp](http://www.nps.gov/stsp)  
[www.chesapeakeconservancy.org](http://www.chesapeakeconservancy.org)  
<http://executiveorder.chesapeakebay.net>  
[www.baybackpack.com](http://www.baybackpack.com)

### *Chesapeake Conservancy*

In June, the Friends of the John Smith Chesapeake Trail and the Friends of Chesapeake Gateways merged under the new name Chesapeake Conservancy to promote public access, land conservation, education, and stewardship of the Chesapeake and rivers. The Conservancy will work to advance the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and to implement a Chesapeake Treasured Landscape Initiative.

